

history of the United States. On that Wednesday when we return he will move that we vote on a constitutional amendment, for the first time in the history of our country, to amend the Bill of Rights, not only the Bill of Rights but the first 16 words of the First Amendment of the Bill of Rights designed to defend religion against intrusion by the Federal Government.

Mr. Speaker, I have spoken previously from the well of this House outlining that the arguments in favor of this constitutional amendment are really based on false premises. The premise that there is no religion in school, that somehow government and liberal Federal judges have taken religion out of our schools when, in fact, *Time Magazine* recently documented that there are thousands of public schools all over America that have bible worship groups and religion prayer groups both before and after school. The fact is that prayer is allowed in America's public schools, as long as that prayer is not prescribed by government officials or forced upon students involuntarily.

I have talked about all of these issues and I have talked about the downside of some of the things that could happen under the Istook amendment. What I would like to do with just several days left before we have this historic vote on the floor of the House is to raise some questions that I hope the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. ISTOOK) and supporters of this effort to amend our Nation's Bill of Rights would be willing to answer before we have this vote. Let me just list some of these kinds of questions that, as of the debate so far, have been left unanswered.

First, under the Istook amendment, who will decide which religious prayers are heard in a public forum? Who will determine what prayers are said in the classroom? Second, will 9-year-old students in public classes be deciding which prayers are heard? Third, would the determination of which prayers are said be based on the percentage of students in that religion at a particular school in that community or that State? Or would that decision be made by a committee of students, perhaps 9-year-olds, perhaps 10-year-olds to select prayers. Fourth, who would ensure that minorities are not excluded from offering their public prayers in school and over the PA system? What if a committee, for example, of students decides that a Jewish prayer or another prayer simply will not be allowed? Who will protect the rights of minorities in such a majority rule situation? Will it be first graders and second graders and third graders in our public school classrooms that will be forced to defend the constitutional rights as outlined in our First Amendment by our Founding Fathers? If not, the alternative is to allow government officials, teachers, administrators to make that decision of which prayers will be allowed and which rules will be used.

Next I would ask this question: Would a Satanic prayer be allowed in the public school classrooms under the Istook amendment? Would the Santerias, defined by our courts as a religion in America, be allowed to participate in their prayer ritual in our schools, part of which concerns or part of which includes animal sacrifices? Will that be allowed in the third grade classrooms of America's schools? If not, will it be the teachers or school administrators or government officials deciding which prayer ritual is okay and which is not?

The next question I would raise is, would this amendment prevent a teacher from proselytizing his or her students? Additionally, I do not see anything in the Istook amendment that would prohibit outside religious groups from proselytizing young children, including first graders, on public school grounds. It seems to me that under the Istook amendment, the experience that many of us have in our Nation's airports, being accosted by religious groups and sometimes religious cults, is going to be replicated on thousands of public school grounds all over America.

That is the question that the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. ISTOOK) and the proponents of this effort to, in my opinion, massacre the Bill of Rights and the First Amendment thereof have an obligation to answer before we cast this historic vote in a couple of weeks.

Next question, will a wiccan be able to hold a ceremony in a public school cafeteria? It appears from the language of the Istook amendment the answer to that would be yes. Next question, will students be able to read Satanic prayers over the PA system in our public schools every morning? Next, will judges be allowed to lead juries in prayer before consideration of a court case? If so, would a judge be allowed to recite the bible and the verse that talks about an eye for an eye or a tooth for a tooth before the jury makes its decision?

All of these unanswered questions ought to be answered by the supporters of the Istook amendment before we vote to amend the Bill of Rights.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HUTCHINSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. HUTCHINSON addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.

#### HALTING THE NUCLEAR ARMS RACE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, last week India, the world's largest de-

mocracy, conducted five nuclear weapons tests setting off a barrage of international criticism led by our own Nation. It is feared that a South Asian nuclear arms race with Pakistan shall have global implications, encouraging North Korea, Iran, Iraq, Libya and others to pursue nuclear ambitions.

Days ago, former President Jimmy Carter addressed the issue of India's nuclear tests in commencement speeches he delivered at Trinity College at the University of Pennsylvania. I found President Carter's remarks, as reported by the news wires, to be very enlightening and wanted to share them with my colleagues.

President Carter, the last American President to visit India, noted that the United States, a country that possesses thousands of nuclear weapons, fails to ratify a comprehensive test ban treaty and continues to deploy land mines is hardly one that has the right to demand the opposite from other nations such as India.

Pointing out the hypocrisy of U.S. nuclear policy, Mr. Carter stated, "It is hard for us to tell India you cannot have a nuclear device, while maintaining we will keep our nuclear weapons, 8,000 or more nuclear bombs, and we are not ready to reduce them yet."

Mr. Carter continued, "We claim we are for a comprehensive test ban to prevent all testing of nuclear weapons, but we still have not ratified the treaty. We claim we want to reduce nuclear arsenals," said Mr. Carter, "but many years later the START II treaty is still not in effect with Russia."

In expressing concern about India's nuclear tests, Mr. Speaker, President Carter further states, "People look to the United States with great admiration but also for guidance. We have not been fair in trying to keep people from developing nuclear weapons."

President Carter concluded, "If the United States wishes to halt the global arms race, they must lead by example and not by condemnation."

Mr. Speaker, President Carter's points are well taken. Many around the world are starting to conclude India's nuclear tests are in great part a direct result of the failure of the United States and the other four members of the nuclear club to seriously move forward towards nuclear disarmament.

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Yesterday, at the United Nations, Secretary General Kofi Annan stated that, "Our senses have been lulled a little bit with regard to the nuclear danger, but I think what has happened in India has woken everybody up." In discussing India and Pakistan, Annan said the five self-declared nuclear powers, the United States, Britain, France, Russia, and China, must take stock of their positions because, and I quote, "You cannot have an exclusive club who have nuclear weapons and are refusing to disband it and tell them now not to have it. The nuclear powers need to set an example for other nations."